acquisition of capital items for the Armed Forces. It includes the procedure for the acquisition of capital items for the Armed Forces. It includes the procedure relating to the formulation of Services' Qualitative Requirement, Acceptance of Necessity, Solicitation of techno-commercial offers, Evaluation of offers, Commercial negotiations, approval of Competent Financial Authority.

(c) and (d) In 2004-2005, about 54 percent of Capital acquisitions were made through imports. Import option is exercised only when it is absolutely necessary to procure the items within a definite time frame on operational grounds to bridge the capability gaps and when such equipment cannot be sourced indigenously. However, Government is taking all necessary steps to encourage and develop the indigenous capability to design and manufacture sophisticated defence items. Substantial achievements have been made by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) in many high technology areas such as Aeronautics, Missiles, Electronic Warfare, Advance Composites, etc.

MiG Crashes

335. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of large number of MiG 21 crashes, they have been described as "flying coffins";

(b) if so, what is the number of MiG 21 planes that have crashed so far; and

(c) whether Government propose to review their continuance for Defence purposes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Due to a spate of accidents in 2002-2002, the term 'Flying Coffin' was coined by a section of the media.

(b) Out of a total number of seven hundred and ninety three (793) MiG-21 aircraft which have been inducted in the Indian Air Force (IAF) since 1963, the IAF has lost three hundred and thirty (330) MiG-21 aircraft in the accidents.

(c) the earlier versions of the MiG-21 aircraft (e.g. Type-77, Type-96 and Type-75 Bis) are in the process of being phased out. The latest version has been upgraded to MiG-21 Bison using the contemporary systems and is likely to continue in the service till 2020.

Non-inclusion of up in Republic Day Parade, 2006

336. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh has been winning prizes in the Republic Day Parade right from 1953 to 2005 an unbroken sequence of 52 years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh did not find any place in this years parade in the Capital; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Tableau proposal received from the State of Uttar Pradesh was considered by the Expert Committee appointed for the purpose alongwith the proposals received from other States/Union Territories/Departments in various meetings. However, the proposal of Uttar Pradesh was not shortlisted by the Expert Committee for inclusion in the cultural pageant of Republic Day Parade, 2006. The tableaux are shortlisted based on overall merit and the duration of the Republic Day Parade.

Acquistion and eviction notices issued by Mahu Cantonment Board

337. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether acquisition and eviction notices have been issued by the Mahu Cantonment Board, District Indore (Madhya Pradesh) on-occupants